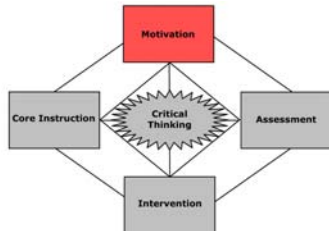


School Effectiveness  
**K-12 Literacy**

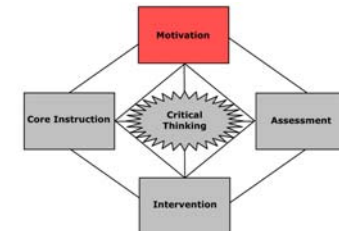
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**The Arizona Department of Education  
Comprehensive Literacy Framework**



## Motivation

Motivation trumps ability every time.  
~ Wendy Saul ~



Motivation is a necessary precondition to learning. It's the process through which a student is inspired *to do* or *to achieve* (Bartholomew, 2007). It's a partnership between the teacher and the student that begins and ends with the teacher's ability to inspire self-confidence, trust, and interest. Recent research into the psychology of motivation identifies three pillars upon which student motivation rests: students must believe in themselves and their own ability to learn; they must trust in the teacher and the teacher's ability to teach; and they must believe that the learning is relevant to them, their goals, aspirations, and dreams.

At grades K-3, motivation isn't the same *kind* of issue that it often becomes for adolescents. In primary and early elementary school, students tend to be more naturally motivated—naturally more self-confident, trusting, and interested—and the teacher-student partnership often resides in simply keeping the momentum going. By middle and high school, however, the situation often changes. Current research documents a significant downturn in student motivation at the middle and high school level where, consequently, the teacher-student partnership becomes much more complex and challenging. In order to motivate adolescent learners—in order to establish the necessary *precondition* to learning—teachers often

have to break down barriers, re-establish, and then re-build the self-confidence, trust, and interest in learning that many students lose along the way.

The Arizona Department of Education recognizes the challenges educators face as they strive to motivate, inspire, and instruct reluctant or struggling students. Therefore, the Motivation component of the Comprehensive Literacy Framework supports educators at grades K-3 and grades 4-12 as they confront those challenges in the classroom. The Motivation component provides:

- current research into motivation
- strategies for motivating reluctant learners
- an annotated bibliography of professional articles
- professional development opportunities
- links to relevant ADE resources

Source

Bartholomew, Barbara. "Why We Can't Always Get What We Want." Phi Delta Kappan. April, 2007: 593-598.